

# Town of Arlington Office of the Town Manager

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Arlington Community Choice Aggregation Starts in August

Bulk purchasing offers pricing stability, competitive pricing, renewable energy options

The Town of Arlington is rolling out the Arlington Community Choice Aggregation (Arlington CCA) program for residents and businesses in August, 2017. Arlington CCA uses bulk purchasing to offer competitive electricity pricing and rate stability for consumers. The program also offers more local renewable energy options to consumers to reduce reliance on carbon-producing fossil fuels. Arlington will be joining over 60 Massachusetts municipalities, including Somerville, Winchester, and Brookline, to take advantage of the state law that allows this type of municipal aggregation.

"Community Choice Aggregation is a way for Arlington to get more local renewable energy into its residents' electricity, and provide stable and competitive electricity prices," said Arlington Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine. "Locking into a competitive, long-term rate protects residents and businesses from market instability and the program's renewable energy options provide more control to what type of energy one uses."

After a competitive bid process, Dynegy was selected as Arlington's Electricity Supplier with a 28 month contract term beginning with your scheduled August, 2017 meter reading and ending with your December 2019 meter reading. When the program begins in August 2017, Arlington ratepayers will be paying less for the default program, **Arlington Local Green**, \$0.10756/kWh, versus the filed Eversource rate of \$0.10759/kWh. Arlington Local Green will also include 5% local renewable energy, above and beyond what is already required of Eversource, for a total of 17% local renewable energy.

For the Town of Arlington and other communities in Greater Boston, Mass Energy is supplying the local renewable energy above the amount required by the state law known as the Renewable Portfolio Standard. Mass Energy, a Boston-based nonprofit, purchases renewable energy wholesale mostly from community-based wind power projects located in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Mass Energy has entered into a number of long-term contracts with wind power projects located in communities such as Plymouth, Gloucester, Scituate, and Ipswich.

"Mass Energy is very happy to be supplying local renewable energy to Arlington and helping the community meet their energy and climate goals," said Mass Energy Consumers Alliance Executive Director Larry Chretien. "Together we can accelerate the transition from fossil fuels. Arlington is a leader and we hope other communities will follow.

The primary intent of the program is to provide price stability and savings over the duration of the 28-month term. Eversource rates for electric supply change every six months (on January 1 and July 1) and may be below

the program rate during any given six-month period. However, a fixed price can protect from market fluctuations, especially in the winter. Arlington CCA participants may leave the program at anytime without a termination fee.

## **Arlington CCA Program Details and What to Expect**

- As an existing Eversource customer your account will be automatically enrolled in the **Arlington Local Green**, unless you choose to opt-up to 50% or 100% renewable energy options, opt-down to Arlington Basic **or** opt-out of the program.
- You may leave the program at any time without early termination fees.
- You will continue to receive one bill from Eversource.
- You will continue to send payment to Eversource.
- Eversource will continue to respond to emergencies and outages.
- Reliability and quality of service will remain the same.
- Tax deductions provided for products offering additional renewable energy.
- Budget Plan/Low-Income delivery rate customers continue to receive benefits from Eversource.

#### **Products in the Program**

- **Arlington Local Green** (automatic enrollment): Delivers 5% more renewable energy than what is required by the Commonwealth.

Or, select one of these alternatives:

- Arlington Premium 100% Local Green: Provides 100% renewable energy
- Arlington Premium 50% Local Green: Provides 50% renewable energy
- Arlington Basic: Includes the same amount of renewable energy as Eversource's basic service

Rate Class	New Community Electricity Program "Arlington Local Green" Five (5) Percent Local Renewable Energy (Standard Product - No Action Required)	"Arlington Premium 50% Local Green" Fif (50) Percent Loc Renewable Energy	ity One Hundred	"Arlington Basic" No Additional Local Renewable Energy	NSTAR Electric Company (Eversource) Utility Basic Service (Supply Services Only)
Residential (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R- 5, R-6)	\$0.10756/kWh	\$0.11881/kWh	\$0.13131/kWh	\$0.10631/kWh	\$0.10759/kWh
Small Commercial & Industrial (G-0, G-1, G-2, G-4, G- 5, G-6, G-7, T-1, Street Lighting)	\$0.10756/kWh	\$0.11881/kWh	\$0.13131/kWh	\$0.10631/kWh	\$0.10764/kWh
Large Commercial & Industrial (G-2, G-3, T-2)	\$0.10756/kWh	\$0.11881/kWh	\$0.13131/kWh	\$0.10631/kWh	\$0.10834/kWh NEMA*
Duration	August 2017 - February 2019  The Town will re-evaluate pricing for the additional local renewable energy portions of the Local Green options after 18 months. This may result in new pricing for the January, 2019 – December 2019 period for the Local Green options.			August 2017 – December 2019 Rate is fixed for entire 28-month term	July 1 – December 31, 2017 (Residential and Small Business & Lighting rates change every six months. Large Business rates change every three months.)*

#### **Outreach on Arlington CCA**

- An informational website, including an extensive FAQ section, at: <a href="www.arlingtoncca.com">www.arlingtoncca.com</a> or customers may call Dynegy at 866-220-5696.
- Communication about the program will be conducted to local media and via Town channels (web, email, social), plus a town-wide Arlington Alert (phone call) will be initiated in mid-June to inform residents and businesses to the arrival of the mailed notice and upcoming public information session.
- A notice about Arlington CCA will be delivered by postal mail to all Eversource customers. This notice will include and the opt-out form. It may also be viewed on the arlingtoncca.com website.
- A public information session will be held at Arlington Town Hall Auditorium, 730 Mass. Ave., June 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m.
- Two-sided color brochures will be produced and available at Town Hall offices.
- A buck slip (insert) will be included in the June real estate/personal property tax bills.
- All marketing materials will be produced and paid for by supplier.

## **Background on Arlington CCA Efforts**

Arlington has shown an ongoing commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through projects spearheaded by its Energy Working Group—including LED streetlights, fuel-efficient vehicles for Town use, and solar panels on schools. Since 2010, the Town has been a designated Green Community under the State's Green Communities Act, and has recently achieved its goal of reducing municipal energy use by 20% over five years. The Town has also supported efforts of residents to install solar power on their homes via its participation in 2012 in the Solarize Massachusetts campaign. A green CCA is the next logical next step in the Town's overall sustainability efforts. Additionally, Arlington recognizes that CCA is a way to offer more stable electricity prices, and, very likely, savings on electricity bills to its residents.

## **Arlington CCA Highlights Timeline**

- February 9, 2016: Public information session held by Town officials, Vision 2020's Sustainable Arlington, and other local groups.
- 2016 Town Meeting authorizes CCA.
- June 6, 2016: Town contracts with consultant, Good Energy, to develop and implement aggregation plan after regional procurement process.
- June 21, 2016 July 12, 2016: Public comment period on aggregation plan.
- June 29, 2016: Public hearing to offer oral comments on CCA.
- July 18, 2016: Board of Selectmen approves aggregation plan.
- April 14, 2017: State's Department of Public Utilities approves aggregation plan.
- May 15, 2017: Board of Selectmen endorse CCA Contract Execution Parameters.
- May 17, 2017: Dynegy wins competitive bid to offer Arlington CCA.

#### **About Community Choice Aggregation**

In 1997, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacted a public policy enabling cities and towns to aggregate the buying power of individual electricity customers. This process is referred to as Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Through a "green CCA," Arlington can make a meaningful reduction in its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions efficiently, affordably, and with the added benefit of public education to bring better understanding to electricity bills, energy choices, and renewable energy.

#### **About Dynegy**

At Dynegy, we generate more than just power for our customers. We are committed to being a leader in the electricity sector. Throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and Texas, Dynegy operates power-generating facilities capable of producing more than 31,000 megawatts of electricity — or enough energy to power about 25 million American homes. We're proud of what we do, but it's about much more than just output. We're always striving to generate power safely and responsibly for our wholesale and retail electricity customers who depend on that energy to grow and thrive.